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Dahlias

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

Emma H. Wilson

KIT GARDEN  
Springfield  
Massachusetts

1932



# *Kit Garden* *Dahlias*

Mail Address—

MRS. E. H. KITSON  
9 IRVINGTON STREET  
SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

Garden at  
CRESCENT LAKE  
2½ miles South of  
East Longmeadow  
On the Shaker Road

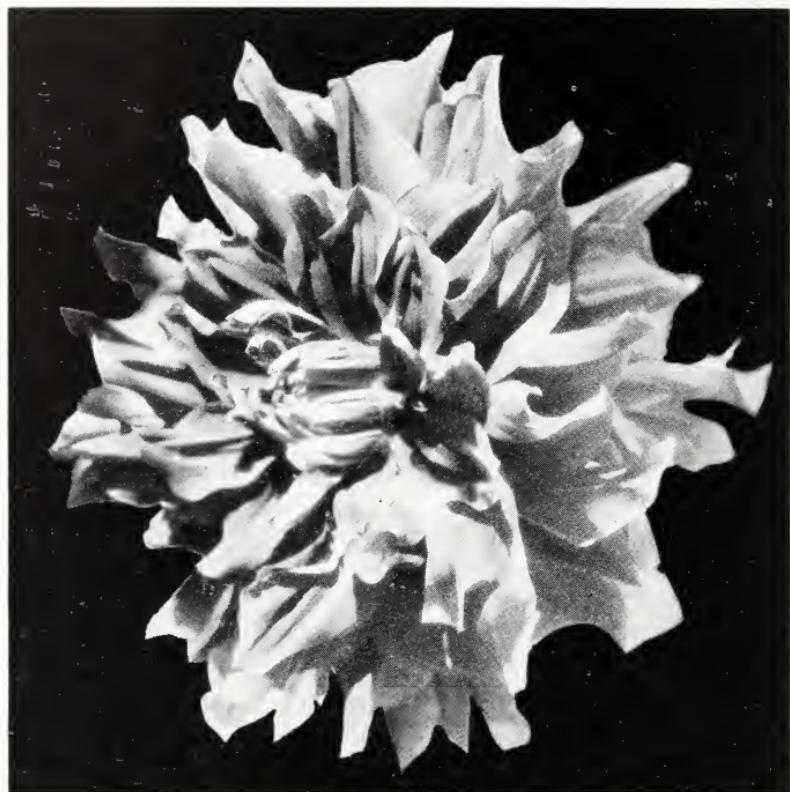
**Order Early**—Your selection of varieties will be reserved upon receipt of your order and shipment made about May 1st unless otherwise requested.

**Terms**—Remittance with order.

**Our Stock** is carefully selected and packed to reach you in good growing condition, and is true to name. Any error reported to us will be cheerfully adjusted.

Member of  
American Dahlia Society  
Dahlia Society of New England  
Dahlia Society of New Jersey





**BARBARA KITSON** (Kit Garden)—*Informal Decorative*

Approaching the garden, this dahlia gives the impression of orange tone, a color produced by a rich cream overlaid and blended with bright red. Size of blooms average 7"-8"; stem thick and strong, holding the bloom facing straight out. Prolific bloomer and splendid cut flower....\$3.00

# Field-grown Roots



## ALICE WHITTIER—*Semi-Cactus*

Light primrose yellow, outer petals sharply quilled. A favorite with many.....\$1.00

## AMBASSADOR—*Cactus*

Soft yellow center shading to amber pink.....1.00

## BARBARA KITSON—*Informal Decorative*

See Page 2.....3.00

## CHARLES G. REED—*Formal Decorative*

Purple or petunia-red. Unusually large with broad petals and a perfect stem.....7.50

## COL. CHAS. A. LINDBERGH—*Informal Decorative*

Rose shading to gold in the base of the petals. A very free bloomer, coming early.....1.50

## COL. E. H. R. GREEN—*Incurved Cactus*

Rich raspberry red. Awarded first prize for best Cactus seedling shown at Boston in 1929.....7.50

## CONQUISTADOR—*Semi-Cactus*

Soft creamy yellow shading to glowing pink. A massive bloom on long, strong stem.....3.50

## COQUETTE—*Informal Decorative*

Musketeer red shading to gold tips with gold reverse. A large fluffy bloom on a remarkable stem.....2.50

## DR. JOHN H. CARMAN—*Informal Decorative*

Tyrian-rose with silver tips. Very large.....2.50

## EAGLE ROCK FANTASY—*Informal Decorative*

Clear mallow pink. An immense fluffy bloom, a sure winner.....15.00

## EAGLE ROCK WONDER—*Semi-Cactus*

Mars-orange shading to orange-buff with tints of pink and coral-red. A very unusual bloom of large size.....10.00

## EDNA FERBER—*Semi-Cactus*

Glistening coral shading to old gold at base of petals. One of the best of the type.....1.50

## ELITE GLORY—*Formal Decorative*

Rich red. A massive exhibition dahlia.....75

## FARNCOT—*Cactus*

Aster purple with white tips. A dainty bloom of about 6" diameter.....75

## FORT MONMOUTH—*Informal Decorative*

Brilliant wine-crimson with bluish violet tips. A sure winner in "largest bloom" class.....2.50



**HAZEL X** (Kit Garden)—*Formal Decorative*

This dahlia is a clear bright yellow of uniform color with no shading. Size of blooms average 9"-10"; stem straight and strong.....\$3.00

<b>FRANK MILLER</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>		
Golden yellow.....		\$4.00
<b>GRACE CURLING</b> — <i>Informal Decorative</i>		
Lilac-pink changing to white at base of petals. Fluffy curling bloom with tips deeply notched.....		4.00
<b>GOLDEN DREAM</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>		
Golden yellow center, outer petals brilliant golden luster. Very large.....		2.00
<b>GRAF ZEPPELIN</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>		
Pure white. Very large, both bush and bloom.....		5.00
<b>HARRY MAYER</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>		
Lavender face, purple reverse.....		1.00
<b>HAZEL X</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>		
See Page 4.....		3.00
<b>ISABELLE JEAN</b> — <i>Decorative</i>		
See Page 6.....		1.00
<b>JANE COWL</b> — <i>Informal Decorative</i>		
Yellow with bronzy suffusion and a pink reverse which gives a warm tone. One of the best dahlias to be had; a "whole lot of dahlia" for the money.....		1.00
<b>JERSEY'S BEAUTY</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>		
True pink.....		.75
<b>JERSEY'S EMPRESS</b> — <i>Informal Decorative</i>		
Anthracene violet.....		1.00
<b>JUNE JUSTICE</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>		
Purple blended with Tyrian-rose.....		5.00
<b>KATHUEEN NORRIS</b> — <i>Informal Decorative</i>		
Clear light pink, lighter toward center.....		4.00
<b>KING TUT</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>		
Burgundy crimson.....		.75
<b>MARDI GRAS</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>		
Deep velvety American Beauty.....		3.00
<b>MARGARET WOODROW WILSON</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>		
Opalescent pink, reverse phlox pink.....		1.00
<b>META SCAMMELL</b> — <i>Semi-Cactus</i>		
Lavender-pink.....		1.50
<b>MRS. ALFRED B. SEAL</b> — <i>Informal Decorative</i>		
Rose-pink with violet suffusion. A very beautiful, large dahlia, none other just like it.....		5.00
<b>MRS. EMILIE H. KITSON</b> — <i>Informal Decorative</i>		
Salmon with orange overtones. An early and free bloomer on long, erect stem. (Introduced and named by Success Gardens, 1929). .		3.00



**ISABELLE JEAN** (Kit Garden)—*Decorative*

The "Peaches and Cream" dahlia that is such a favorite with those who like the smaller ones.

Color is cream and pink with a dash of scarlet; type is true decorative with tight center and water-lily shape; stem is long and wire stiff; bush is thrifty and free flowering; bloom has rare keeping quality as cut flower. A few blooms in a vase makes a dainty picture; four or six dozen blooms in a big bowl is "something to write about".....\$1.00

<b>NANAQUAKET</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Orchid-pink. Free bloomer on long stems.....	..... \$2.00
<b>PRIDE OF STRATFORD</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Golden-orange, reverse rose.....	..... 1.00
<b>QUEEN OF THE GARDEN BEAUTIFUL</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Primrose yellow. Immense size.....	..... 1.00
<b>RED ROCKET</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Brilliant red. (Originated as KIT GARDEN seedling from JANE COWL, 1929).....	..... 2.00
<b>RISING MARS</b> — <i>Semi-Cactus</i>	
Bright red.....	..... 1.00
<b>ROSE K. DARNELL</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Rose-pink. Resembles Jersey's Beauty in shape and size. Deeper color.....	..... 1.00
<b>R. T. EDWARDS</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Lavender-pink, reverse plum.....	..... 1.00
<b>RUDY VALLEE</b> — <i>Semi-Cactus</i>	
Chrome-yellow in bud changing to orange red, becoming all orange-red in the mature bloom. A large bloom and unusual color.....	..... 10.00
<b>SANHICAN BEAUTY</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Clear pink of orange tone, uniform color with no shadings	2.00
<b>SANHICAN MAGNATE</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Violet-pink overlaid with markings of deeper shade. Reverse claret.....	..... 1.00
<b>SANTA ANNA</b> — <i>Informal Decorative</i>	
Salmon-rose, suffused gold.....	..... 2.00
<b>SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS</b> — <i>Informal Decorative</i>	
Deep American Beauty Rose. Large.....	..... 3.00
<b>THE WORLD</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Rosy magenta overlaid garnet, silver shading on tips.....	..... 3.00
<b>THOMAS A. EDISON</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Royal purple. Staghorn petals.....	..... 7.50
<b>WHITE EMPRESS</b> — <i>Informal Decorative</i>	
White. Free bloomer.....	..... 3.00
<b>WHITE FLUFF</b> — <i>Informal Decorative</i>	
Its name describes it exactly. (KIT GARDEN seedling from JANE COWL, 1929).....	..... 2.00
<b>YANKEE QUEEN</b> — <i>Formal Decorative</i>	
Light pink, paler center.....	..... 2.00

The Miniature and Pompon Dahlias are very popular for bouquet purposes, being daintily adaptable for vase, basket, or bowl. They may be planted as close as eighteen inches apart and a number of them can be accommodated in small garden space. They grow about two feet high and bloom freely, with flowers of less than two inches diameter. These small-type Dahlias should not be topped nor disbudded as their small size is their charm.

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*Miniature Decoratives:*

CORONNE—Pure white, looks like a Gardenia .....	<b>\$0.50</b>
LITTLE JEWEL—Light pink, like an Aster .....	<b>.50</b>

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*Pompons: \$4.00 per dozen; .80.50 each.*

ALEWINE—Lavender shades.

AMBER QUEEN—Amber to orange.

ANNA VON SCHWERIN—Pale pink, white eye.

BELLE OF SPRINGFIELD—Bright red.

BOBBY—Plum.

DARKNESS—Maroon.

DR. JIM—Pale lavender, tips purple.

GANYMEDE—Fawn, tips lavender.

GIRLIE—Lilac.

GOLDIE—Gold.

HAZEL—Buff to brown.

IDEAL—Yellow.

JANET—Brilliant salmon.

JOE FETTE—Pure white.

JESSICA—Yellow, tips red.

JOHNNY—Deep red.

KIM—Clear orange.

LITTLE HERMAN—Red with white.

MARY MUNNS—Fuchsia purple.

TINY TIM—Peach pink.

YELLOW GEM—Clear yellow.

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*It is our desire and aim to give a feeling of satisfaction in every sale.*

## *Growing the Dahlia*

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Yes, it is true as they say, "Any kind of soil will grow Dahlias." Whatever kind you happen to have in your garden will grow them, but the degree of success that you attain will depend considerably upon how you prepare that soil for the specific needs of Dahlias.

The Dahlia is a slow-growing plant, taking a whole season to perfect its complete growth. It is by nature a large plant with the habit of branching and re-branching continuously. And while this vigorous growth above ground is going on, a root system is making under ground upon which depends the carrying on of the stock.

It is necessary, then, to see that moisture and nutriment is in the soil in proportion to its growth throughout the season, both for bush and root growth.

We all agree that there is no better soil conditioner than Barnyard Manure. Not only does it bring about the chemical action that makes fertility, but also builds up the humus content so necessary to the holding of moisture in the soil.

When it is used for Dahlias it should be spread and turned under in the Fall. During the Winter it will break down and become incorporated with the soil so that by Spring there results a blend of growing medium that will be ready to give the plants a lusty start.

If Barnyard Manure is not available, humus content can be made by sowing Winter rye during the late Summer or even after the Dahlias are dug in the Fall. When plowing time comes in the Spring a green crop will be ready to turn under. Compost spread and turned under in the Spring also adds valuable humus content. Follow this by the use of Commercial Fertilizer during the growing season, and the Dahlias will give a good account of themselves.

When you see a Commercial Fertilizer advertized, learn its analysis before using it. Find out if the proportions of its make-up provide the balance that your plants need.

In the case of the Dahlia, too much Nitrate will over-induce bush growth, making it soft and less resistant. Nitrate is a stimulant—quick acting and soon consumed—and should be the smallest proportion in the Fertilizer used. Phosphate and Potash promote good color and substance in the bush and stout substance in the root growth.

In order to grow root stock that will carry the Dahlias on to the next year, it is wise to select a Fertilizer that has a high percentage of Potash. We find 4-6-10 an excellent balance for Dahlias. In laying out the Dahlia garden, allow a spacing of at least three feet between plants if possible. Even this much space often becomes crowded when the plants are full grown.

If the Dahlias are to be grown tall, each plant will need a stake to which it can be tied when wind and rain storms come. They are perfectly well able to hold themselves up under ordinary conditions, but the winds that come with thunder storms will work havoc with tall, heavy plants unless they are protected.

Plant not less than six inches deep. The new root-clump is made above the old root and needs to be deep down in the cool, moist soil for good development.

Lay the root flat with the sprout pointing up so that the new plant will have a straight stem. Fill the hole about half its depth. As the plant grows, continue to fill until the ground is level. Keep the ground level around the plants so that rain falling can soak in and benefit the whole area evenly. Do not mound the earth around the stem, thus making a watershed that carries away the needed rainfall.

Why waste Fertilizer by placing it in the hole under the root? There is enough food supply in that root to provide nutriment while the young plant is becoming established.

As the new roots grow they reach out into the area surrounding the plant, far out, as wide as the branches reach, so out there is where they will be seeking food.

After the planting is completed, broadcast the Fertilizer out where repeated cultivating will work it thoroughly into the soil. Rain dripping from the leaves and on the open area will carry it down in solution and the feeding roots will find it.

It is important to cultivate thoroughly at least once a week, stirring the soil to the depth of the cultivator implement and finishing the surface with the rake to make a dust-mulch.

A packed soil retards development in both bush and root.

After rains, break it up again before the sun has a chance to bake it to a crust. The sun beating down on a hard surface will draw out moisture that is needed down below. Give shallow cultivating with the rake only, after budding starts. The only place where weeds have any value is in the Compost Heap, not among the Dahlias, robbing them of food and moisture.

The pinching-out or topping method of handling the plants, followed by a systematic disbudding and pruning, will bring blooms of uniform excellence throughout the season.

If you have not used this method, try a few of your plants this year.

When the plant has three pairs of leaves, snip out the center of the plant above the leaves.

Out of the leaf-crotches where they join the main stalk come little shoots. These will develop rapidly and uniformly into six branches, making a low, shapely bush. When the terminal flower buds are set, go over each branch and disbud all but one of the buds. Then follow down the branch below this bud for three or more pairs of leaves and rub out the tiny shoots in their crotches. This will give a good long stem to cut with the mature flower.

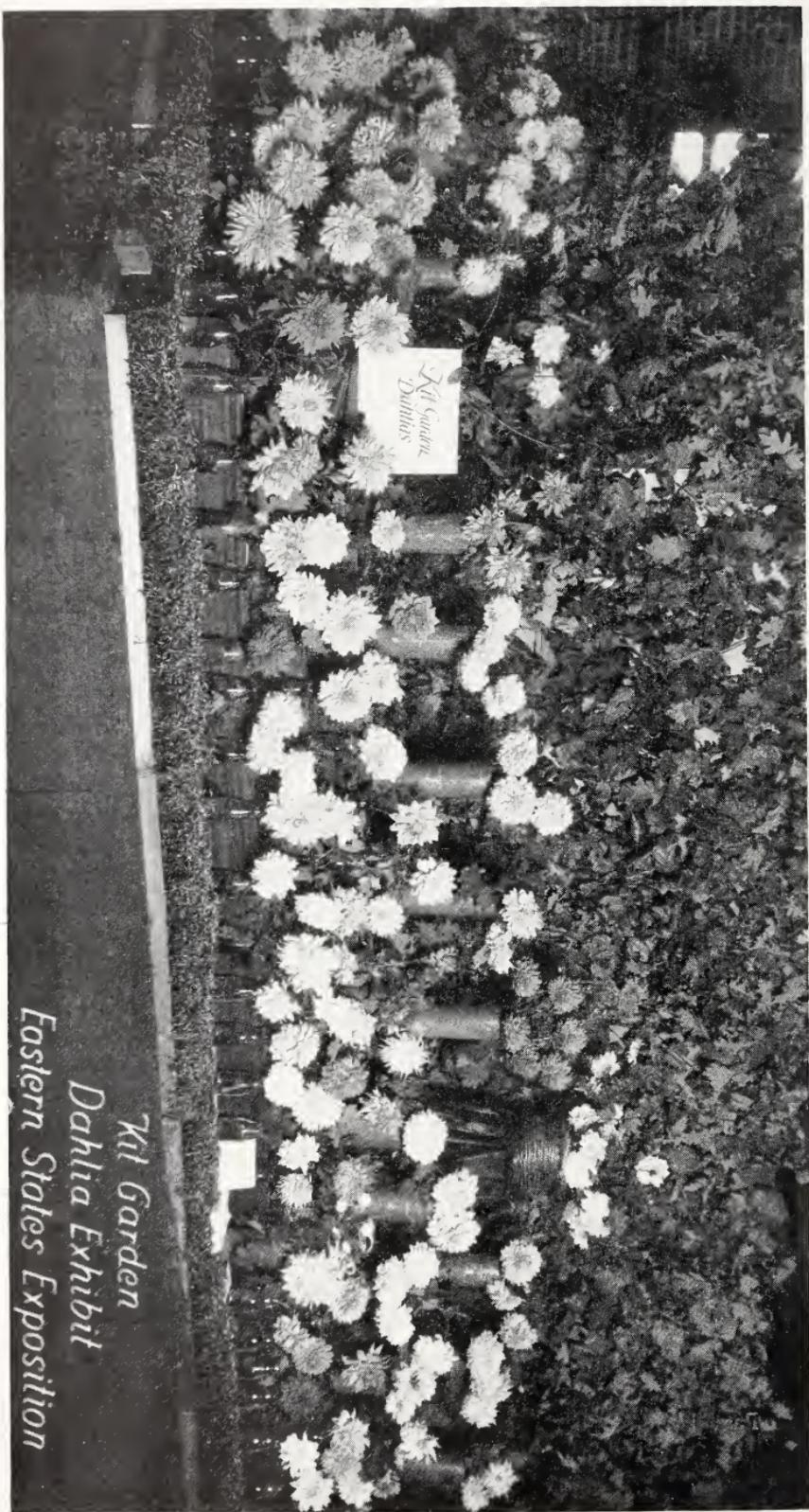
Meanwhile in the leaf crotches below the pruned part other tiny shoots are developing into secondary branches that will provide bloom after the first six are cut. Disbud and prune these in turn and the succession of bloom goes on in the same quality as the first six and will give you the kind of blooms that you see at the Shows.

In the Fall when frost has killed the foliage, cut off the bushes at the ground and dig. Cut a wide circle around the plant, using a square-edged spade to sever the long anchor roots, and heave gently till the clump is free. Turn upside down for an hour or so in the sun to dry, but do not leave overnight where frost might nip. Stock may be divided in the Fall if the roots are plump and good sized; if small and slender they will stand a better chance of coming through if left in clump.

Store in a cool, dark cellar where the temperature can be kept at 40-50 degrees during cold weather and that can be ventilated when it is mild.

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*You are cordially invited to visit Kit  
Garden, located at Crescent  
Lake,—on the Shaker Road,—  
two and a half miles south of  
East Longmeadow, Mass.*



*Kit Garden  
Dahlia Exhibit  
Eastern States Exposition*



